

have raised him to the highest rank of existences,—the EPICURUS of this great Oriental system,

qui potuit RERUM cognoscere CAUSAS,  
Atque metus omnes et inexorabile fatum  
Subiecit pedibus.

What is mere figure of speech in the Roman poet, to express the calm dignity of wisdom, becomes religious faith in the east; viz. the elevation of philosophical opinion of popular superstition and Brahmanical caste, to the character of a being supreme over all visible and invisible things, and the object of universal worship.—W. H. M.

VI.—Description of two new species of *Carinaria*, lately discovered in the Indian Ocean. By W. H. BENSON, Esq. Bengal Civil Service.

Class.—GASTEROPODA, Cuvier.

Order.—*Nucleobranche*, Blainville.—*Heteropoda*, Lam.

Fam. *Firolidæ*, Rang.

Genus. *Carinaria*;—Bory. Lamarck.

Sp. 1. *C. Cithara*. *Testa dextra; ultimo anfractu recto, compresso-conico, versus spiram gradatim et eleganter attenuato, spiram terminalem ferè amplectente, rugis obliquis ornato; aperturâ obliquâ, oblongo-ovata, versus carinam coarctatâ; carinâ mediocri, striis sub-rectis signatâ. Habitat in Oceano Indico.*

Shell dextral; the last whorl straight, compressed, conical, gradually narrowing towards the apex, nearly embracing the terminal spire, marked with oblique wrinkles; aperture oblique, oblong ovate, narrowed towards the keel; keel moderate, marked with nearly straight striæ.

The animal of this shell is more narrowed and cylindrical than in any other described species, but as the *Carinariæ* are said to have the power of inflating themselves, too much stress should not be laid upon this character. The body is attenuated and pointed at the posterior extremity. It is by a line, with not very apparent asperities on the surface, and has a central swimmer (on the side opposed to the shell); but I found no appearance of the caudal swimmer, which is represented in the figures of *C. Mediterranea*. The male organ, and the parts about the mouth are pale crimson. The viscera contained in the shell are brownish, and the stomach yellowish or brownish, passing into red posteriorly. After death, this red colour is often diffused through the neighbouring parts. The scarf skin is very tender, and strips off the animal, soon after death, in ragged portions.

This shell, with that next to be described, approaches in form to the scarce and precious *C. vitrea*, which is, with good reason, supposed to be an inhabitant of the Indian Seas. Four specimens, of which two were without the spire, were taken by myself and my companions, between S. Lat.  $4^{\circ} 30'$ , and N. Lat.  $4^{\circ} 30'$ , and E. Long.  $87^{\circ} 30'$ , and W. Long.  $90^{\circ} 30'$ . They were all taken after night-fall, and from the eagerness with which we plied our nets after I had made known the value

of our discovery, and our want of greater success, it would appear that this and the following species are scarce, even in that region. Both species, like all the others known, are hyaline, and very fragile. Their spires consist of three whorls. The obliquity of the rugæ of the last or straight whorl, together with its straightness and gradual attenuation, will serve to distinguish *Carinaria Cithara* from any other species. It is named from its resemblance in form and sculpture to a harp.

Sp. 2. *C. Galea*. *Testa dextra, ultimo anfractu incurvo, compresso-conico, spiram terminalem ferè amplectente, rugis transversis ornato, latè carinato, carinæ rugis perobliquis, recurvatis; aperturâ transversâ, ovatâ, versus carinam coarctatâ. Habitat cum precedente.*

Shell dextral, with the last whorl incurved, compressed, conical, nearly embracing the terminal spire, marked with transverse rugæ, broadly keeled. Keel with very oblique rugæ, which are curved upwards in the direction of the spire. Aperture transverse, ovate, narrowed towards the keel.

The animal resembles that of the preceding species, but the yellowish or brownish colour in the stomach is replaced entirely by pale carmine. Belonging to the same type as the last species, and resembling in form a compressed helmet, the shell is easily distinguishable by the greater curve of the outer edge of the last whorl, which does not decrease so delicately as in that species, as well as by the less obliquity of the rugæ on the body whorl, and the greater obliquity and curvature of those on its very broad keel. The body striæ being parallel with the edge of the aperture, it follows that in the species under review, the mouth is less oblique than in *C. Cithara*. Its keel, the close embrace of the spire by the last whorl, and the breadth of the latter at this point, will abundantly serve to distinguish it from *C. vitrea*. The keels of both *C. galea* and *C. Cithara* are from their thinness and excessive fragility, very liable to injury even in their native element.

The addition of these two species of *Carinaria* increases the number known to naturalists to six, the others being *C. Mediterranea*, *fragilis*, *vitrea*, and *depressa*. Of these one is from the Mediterranean, two from the seas washing the Western Coast of Africa and Madagascar, and the fourth is supposed to belong to the eastern seas.

In N. Lat. 4° 50', E., Long. 91°. Lieut. McNAIR took two true *Carinariæ*, the shells of which were replaced by a plate consisting of agglutinated pieces of broken shell, adhering to the suspended viscera. We captured also several species of naked *Firolidæ* belonging to the genus *Pterotrachea*.

*Calcutta, March, 1835.*